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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3563
INFO RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0005
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0391
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 7397
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4868
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 6093
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4348
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 1676
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 6829
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4119
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 7684
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO 1765
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2702
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0863
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 9096
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 7282
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 3548
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 000193

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SUBJECT: UKRAINE REQUESTS USG SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN-BRAZILIAN SPACE
LAUNCH JOINT VENTURE AT ALCANTARA

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Lisa Kubiske, Reason 1.4 (b)
and (d)

REF: A) STATE 3691, B) 2008 BRASILIA 1652

¶1. (C) On February 6, 2009, Environment, Science and Technology, and Health (ESTH) Counselor and Assistant Air Attache delivered the USG response (REFTEL A) to the Ukrainian proposal (REFTEL B) to help the United States obtain Brazilian congressional approval of the 2000 U.S.-Brazil Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA). Ukrainian Ambassador Volodymyr Lakomov and Rustam Akhunov, First Secretary, went over the matter twice to make sure they had the message right. By the end of the meeting, while disappointed, they clearly understood that the USG did not want Ukraine to seek to persuade members of the Brazilian congress to support ratification of the 2000 TSA.

¶2. (C) NOTE. A dispute with a local community, called a "quilombo" composed of descendents of runaway slaves, over land at the Alcantara site has led to delays in the plans of Alcantara Cyclone Space (a Ukrainian-Brazilian joint venture) to begin launches by 2011. In the past, the Ukrainians have suggested that the USG might be responsible for stirring up the quilombo with the aim to thwart their joint venture. In a similar vein, at the February 6 meeting they asked whether the USG was behind some buoys that had been recently discovered near Alcantara that supposedly had electronic equipment in them, which could possibly be used to collect telemetry information from any space launch vehicles launched from Alcantara. END NOTE.

SOBEL